

THE

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SHEKEL

VOLUME III NO. 1

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Secret Money of the New State

Jerusalem Ruins Yield Coins

Israel's Medals to Alaska

Two Cities, Two Shekels

The Oil Painting that Became a Medal

The Yeshivath Hebron Tokens

Mikveh Israel Coin Announced

Coin Photography

A Type Set of Ancient Judaic Coins

Jewish History of Coins

Club News, and Others

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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are beginning our third year and all of us should be grateful for this mutual hobby of ours, which has given us many hours of relaxation and enjoyment. My hope is that this has been as true for you as it has been for me.

A strong active association is the best answer to many problems, especially those which cannot be solved by individuals alone. But every organization's strength is in proportion to its membership; therefore we urge you, dear fellow members, to assist in the growth of our association by recommending your friends for membership.

I am sure you have all been notified that AINA has been appointed the exclusive distribution agent of Sylvia Haffner's book, *THE HISTORY OF MODERN ISRAEL'S MONEY*, for an extended period. The new issue will contain whole new sections on Israel's coinage,

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The SHEKEL

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Spring 1970

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JERUSALEM

RUINS YIELD COINS

House Devastated by Romans 1900 Years Ago
Proves Conflagration of Jewish Quarter

One of the most unique finds in the continuing struggle to recapture Jerusalem's yesterdays has just been opened by archaeologists in the Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter. Ruins of a house left untouched since the Romans devastated it by fire 1900 years ago contained vessels indicating that it was a workshop. Coins of 67 and 68 C.E., including a few dozen of small bronze and *prutot*, were found on the site along with moulds for coin casting and were the basis for dating the find.

The discovery merited front page announcement in *The New York Times* and continuing interesting in Israel's press. The *Jerusalem Post* headlined the find with: *House in Old City as Titus left it*.

Professor Naham Avigad, director of the dig, was quoted as claiming the building to be the only building ever found in Jerusalem exactly as it was left by Titus' conquering army in 70 C.E. "It is an emotional, almost shocking experience to actually witness the destruction which we know of from literary sources and previously incomplete archaeological remains", he said.

The site lies on the height 500 yards west and opposite the Temple Mount, near *Rehov Misgad Ladach* on a plot (200 square meters) made available to archaeologists prior to planned new construction.

The workshop was found at a depth of about ten feet and two rooms had been cleared by early January. Debris included collapsed wooden beams and walls of plaster charred black. White limestone has been burnt red as sign of the huge conflagration. The floor, covered with ashes, yielded coins in one room and the stone moulds for casting in the other, a workroom which was possibly a mint.

A Pharmacy-Like Room

The first room appears to have been a kind of pharmacy. Apart from cooking pots and small jugs typical of the period, there were stone jars, measuring cups, many weights and mortars and pestles.

From the fact that a large number of nails were found in a second room, the idea that carpentry or furniture-making was done there was expressed by the archaeologist. In this second room, the moulds were found.

A low carved stone table supported by a leg in the centre found on the site is of a type unique in Israel.

Professor Avgad said the find raised associations of Pompeii where a whole city was buried intact under lava. This workshop, for some reason, was never re-used or pillaged. It became buried under rubble upon which houses were built in later periods.



- 1) **Obverse**
Vine leaf with branch and tendril;
around, inscription: **חרות ציון**
Herut Zion = Freedom of Zion

Reverse:
Amphora with two handles, around, in-
scription: **שנת שתיים**

Shnat Shatayim — Year Two
The First Revolt (60-70 C.E.) has the
words Herut Zion as its motto. The men-
tion "year two" means second year of the
Revolt, which is 67.
18mm, 2.5 g+-.



- 2) **Obverse:**
Vine Leaf with branch and tendril.
Around inscription: **חרות ציון**
Herut Zion = Freedom of Zion

Reverse:
Amphora with lid and two handles.
Around, inscription: **שנת שלוש**

Shnat Shalosh — Year Three
The difference between the two coins is:
1) The lid on the amphora
2) Year — Year Three, the Third year
of the War, 58 C.E.

The excavation is jointly sponsored by the Hebrew University, the Government as Department of Antiquities and Museums and the Israel Exploration Society. A team of more than forty has been working the site.

The area of the Jewish Quarter opposite the Temple Mount was part of the upper city of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period. It is thought that this area included royal buildings such as the Akra fortress and the Palace of the Hasmoneans mentioned by Josephus Flavius and also appearing in the *Book of the Maccabees*.

Because of the densely built character of the Jewish Quarter there has been no previous archaeological exploration there. Today, as the area is destroyed by the Jordanians in 1948 and made ready for reconstruction and development, a unique and probably non-recurring opportunity to lay bare some of early Jerusalem has made the find possible.

Nine Stages of Occupation

Nine stages of occupation were identified beginning with the end of the Israelite period and ending with the period of the Crusaders.

Probably this section of the city should be identified with the area of of Jerusalem known in the Bible as the

Mishneh (2 Kings, 22:14). In the period of the Hasmoneans (2nd to 1st centuries B.C.E.) there was a considerable upsurge of building in the upper city. This is borne out by the discovery of remains of large public structures revealed in the stratum relating to this period. Also discovered were plastered water basins and channels.

Fresco Fragments Found

Remains of buildings dating to the Herodian and succeeding periods were found in the upper strata. In the fill between two floors, a large number of fresco fragments remarkable for their colour and design were found. Also discovered were fragments of Ionic capitals. These fragments seem to belong to an elaborate palace which stood near the site of the excavation. The style of these remains and the coins found with them, indicate that a dating to the 1st century B.C.E. (i.e., the end of the Hasmonean period and the beginning of the reign of Herod) would be appropriate.

Special interest attaches to two plaster fragments from this same building on which is incised a seven-branched candlestick (menorah). Worthy of particular mention here are the decorations on the candlestick and the unusual height of the branches. It should

Continued on page 34

A Type Set of Ancient

More and more letters to the Aleph Beth page ask questions like:

"What Ancient Jewish Coins shall I buy?", "Which coins in the Ancients are the best buys?", "Should I start any given group, like the coins of the Bar-Kokhba Revolt, and after I finish them go to another group like the Herodian Dynasty?"

A bit of philosophy and analysis before answering. You really never own a coin. If you destroy it — you owned it. Unlike the new car that is finally worn out, or the suit fitted just for your waist, shoulders, and length that is consumed by you, the moths, and obsolescence, the coin is a life estate — not to be consumed. It is yours to enjoy as long as you want.

If it is still around after you are gone it will be acquired by someone else to hold for enjoyment, investment or study. When you spend \$3,000.00 for a new automobile, you will have an old car at the end of a few years.

If you bought a rare coin in a wanted series and bought it in accordance with current value, the chances are that at the end of two years you are ahead of the shrinking dollar being cut by inflation. You never spend money for a rare coin, *you invest in it.*

But — *"What Ancient Coins shall I buy?"*

The coins to be bought should have the greatest security, increased demand, appeal to the largest group of collectors and have a stabilized and limited supply. Let us examine the series in light of the foregoing criteria.

GREATEST SECURITY—Suppose that you bought a dozen of the same coin in various degrees of condition some ten years ago. You will find that it is easier to sell the uncirculated one as against the poor one. It is axiomatic that the beaten-up coin never really increases in value over inflationary trends, but the uncirculated or best condition available will go into orbit.

THE HASMONEAN DYNASTY (135-37 BC)



S — Secondary

A. THE HASMONAEEAN DYNASTY (135-37 BC)

1. John Hyrcanus I (135-104 BC) Dilepton AE R.8-11 M.18-20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 (1 Pruta-rx-wreath)
2. Judas Aristobulus (104-103 BC) Dilepton AE R.13 M.28, 29
3. Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BC) Dilepton AE R.14 M.8 (1 Pruta-crossed anchor) (RX-1 lira 1967-star)
4. Jonathan Hyrcanus II (67 & 63-40 BC) Dilepton AE R.19-20 M.12-13
5. Antagonus Mattathias (40-37 BC) Large Bronze AE R.21 M.30 or
- 5a. Antagonus Mattathias (40-37 BC) Medium Bronze AE R.22 M.31 (S)

Judaean Coins

by Edward Janis

RULE 1 — *Buy the coin in the best condition that you can afford.*

INCREASED DEMAND — Dealers and professional numismatists are in agreement that as a group, ancient coin collectors (all not specifically the collector of Jewish coins) have increased some threefold in the last ten years. Some of these collectors are pushing certain coins of Jewish interest to unheard highs because of demand.

For example, the prices of fine Judea Capta Sestertius pieces, a Roman Coin, have tripled in England as against prices only three to four years ago. The Judea Capta Sestertius is not a particularly rare coin. Thousands were forever removed from the collector by the Sunday school classes of England and the United States during the 1880's and the 1890's.

With the advent of the State of Israel, everybody would like to own a shekel (myself included). AINA alone will start 250 serious collectors of Ancient Jewish and affiliated coins during the next year.

APPEAL TO THE LARGEST GROUP OF COLLECTORS — The demand for a coin may come from different types of collectors who are seeking the same coin for different reasons. *Collector A* has just assembled an uncirculated mil and pruta set of Israel and is desirous of showing the ancient coin of origin alongside the modern piece and starts looking for example for the Hasmonean coin of Alexander Jannaeus with the crossed anchor.

Collector B is a topical collector and is looking for coins with a maritime theme: a boat, fleet or even a solitary anchor. *Collector C* is looking for Ancient Greek Coins and this is listed under Greek Coinage!

THE HERODIAN DYNASTY (37 BC-66 AD)



S — Secondary

B. THE HERODIAN DYNASTY (37 BC-66 AD)

1. Herod the Great (37-4 BC) Large Bronze AE R.26 M.37 or
- 1a. Herod the Great (37-4 BC) Dilepton AE R.33 M.53
2. Herod Archelaus (4 BC-6 AD) Dilepton AE R.55 M.61 (25 Mills-vine, leaf and grapes)
3. Herod Antipas (4 BC-39 AD) Any R.45-52 M.63-72 All rare (S)
4. Herod Philip II (4 BC-34 AD) Any R.37-41 M.76-84 All rare (S)
5. Agrippa I (37-44 AD) Dilepton AE R.59 M.58 (1 agora-ears of barley)
6. Agrippa II (50-100 AD) Any R.74-116 M.94-147 All rare (S)

RULE 2 — Collect that which has the greatest universal appeal.

A STABILIZED AND LIMITED SUPPLY — Obviously new ancient coins cannot be made. The risk that one takes is that a hoard will be found and prices will stabilize downward. In Israel, such a find is national treasure and ends up in a museum. Those of us who saw the Masada exhibit in New York drooled at the jar of shekels that were unearthed. These shekels are and will remain part of the permanent Masada exhibit.

Not all finds, however, will end up in government hands. These will usually be isolated individual coins or small hoards, and in most cases these will be the more common varieties of leptons and dileptons. In Israel every schoolboy in the area walks the beaches at Caesaria and Acco after the large equinox storms of February and October. Little coins are left on top of small mounds of sand. Most are, at best, identifiable.

In two different articles in *Coin World* (May 14 1969) both Q. David Bowers and Abe Kosoff, two distinguished coin dealers, had stated that type coins are getting harder and harder to find and therefore dealers have to pay more for them. Because of demand, they have increased in value more than twice as much as non-type coins.

As an example of this in modern coinage; if you were assembling a type set of State of Israel coins, you could use any 5 Agorot piece (say the 1967 without using the scarce 1964,) but for the reduced size 100 Pruta, you must use the 1954. Most type set collectors will not even consider the rare Utrecht die so that the Berne die pieces have a built-in demand for the future.

From the inception in 1948, the modern legal tender of Israel has its design adapted from ancient Hebrew coins which featured the palm tree, palm branches, the fruits of the land, the anchor and ritual instruments of the Temple. It therefore follows that

THE JEWISH ROMAN WAR (66-70 AD)



S — Secondary

C. THE JEWISH ROMAN WAR (66-70 AD)

1. Shekel AR R.141 More common than 137, 139, 143 or 145 (500 Prutot & 1 Lira 1967 obv-pomegranate) or
- 1a. ½ Shekel AR R.142 More common than 138, 140, or 144 (500 Prutot & 1 Lira 1967 obv-pomegranate) (S)
2. Small Bronze AE R.6 M.163
3. Dilepton AE R.147 M.153 (50 Prutot-vine branch with leaves)
4. Dilepton AE R.148 M.156

we will chose the background coin wherever possible so that a collector may use the same ancient coin in displaying or discussing the modern piece with the prototype design.

The foregoing 20 coins represent a complete versatile collection of Ancient Jewish Coins. The most common Reifenberg¹ and Meshorer² numbers have been shown. Pieces excessively rare are not included where a more common type exists.

In a following issue we will examine a type set of *Non-Jewish Affiliated Ancient Coins*. These will include Pre-Jewish Coins, Coins of the Roman Procurators of Judaea Capta and other Romano-Judaea Coinage.

(1) A. Reinfenberg, ANCIENT JEWISH COINS

(2) Y. Meshorer, JEWISH COINS OF THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD

THE BAR-KOKHBA WAR (132-135 AD)



S — Secondary

D. THE BAR-KOKHBA WAR (132-135 AD)

1. Tetradrachm AR
2. Large Bronze AE R.190-1, 197-8 M.168-9, 191-2 (10 Pruta-2 handled amphora)
3. Medium Bronze AE R.192, 199 M.172, 193 (5 Pruta-lyre) or
- 3a. Denarius (Silver) AR R.172, 176, 177 M.177, 186, 188 (5 Pruta-lyre) (S)
4. Medium Bronze AE R.205 M.212 (25 Agorot-kithara-elongated lyre) or
- 4a. Denarius (Silver) AR R.178, 184, 188 M.187, 205, 209 (25 Agorot-kithara) (S)
5. Denarius (Silver) AR R.169, 173, 181, 185 M.167, 183, 202, 207 (10 Pruta-jug and palm branch)
6. Small Bronze AE R.206 M.215 (25 Prutot-grape cluster; 100 Prutot & 10 Agorot — 7 branch palm tree)
7. Large Bronze AE R.200 M.195, R.204 M.211 (50 Prutot-vine leaf; 100 Prutot & 10 Agorot — 7 branch palm)
8. Bronze of Eleazer R.189, 189a M.173, 174 — Replaces #6



Kennedy Airport, N.Y.

AINA'S SECOND ISRAEL STUDY TOUR HAS MOMENTOUS TRIP

The second numismatic study tour of Israel sponsored by AINA left on schedule from New York on March 1 and returned ten days later with pleased and happy AINA members and their wives, states Morris Bram, AINA president.

Hosts and sponsoring groups included the Israel Numismatic Society of Tel Aviv and the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

The group spent its first two days in the Haifa area with visits to the Galilee, Syrian Golan Heights and Samaria. The mid-visit period was based in Jerusalem with visits to local sites of numismatic interest and with meetings with local groups. The final days of the visit were spent in Tel Aviv and in special tours of the tiny country.

Among those who shared the visit according to the University Travel Co. of Cambridge which made all arrangements were:

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Moskovitz, Detroit, Mich.; Mr. and Mrs. Maurice M. Gould, Sepulveda, Calif.; Benjamin

Odesser, Chicago, Ill.; and Gilbert Stenberg, Wayne, N. J.

Residents of New York State included Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bram, New York City; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scheur, Williamsville; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gottesman, Williamsville; Mr. and Mrs. Irving Golub, Oceanside; Max Vlotkoffsky, Melville; Allen Weinberg, Bronx; Armand Hoffman, Bronx; and Mr. and Mrs. Marten, Massapequa.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roginson, Conn.; Dr. and Mrs. J. Sklar, Oregon, N. J.; and Adolph Goldberg, Brookline, Mass.

Others in the tour included Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Mishler, Iola, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Haney, New York City; J. J. Van Grover, New York City; Max Fox, Dorchester, Mass.; Myram genbothm, and the Denberg family.

(Editor: The full story of the March, 1970 tour will be covered in a future issue of THE SHEKEL.)

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks



How the Jews got Their 'Two Bits'



The United States has experimented with several denominations which were discontinued after a very short period (i.e. *twenty-cent piece* — 4 years; *four dollar gold piece* — 2 years). The purpose of these short-lived issues was to fill in gaps between the standard coins (i.e. *between the dime and quarter* and *between the three dollar gold piece and the five dollar gold piece*). But limited usage ultimately led to the demise of these "odd denominations".

A similar occurrence happened nineteen hundred years ago in Judaea, during the First Revolt (66-70 C.E.). In the first year silver Shekels and Half Shekels were struck. And recently another silver denomination was revealed: a Quarter Shekel of the same design and fabric as the larger denominations.

The coin, in a private American collection, is 19mm wide and weighs 3.282 grams. It was first published by V. C. Stefanelli, of the Smithsonian Institute, in 1964.

The obverse design is a chalice with plain rim and a pearl on each side. Above is the date.: F (lc =A= [Year] 1) and around is the inscription:

ל'טו' מ' ד' (ש'ת'ס'א)

= REVA' HASHEKEL = Quarter of the Shekel). The reverse features a stem with three budding pomegranates and the ancient Hebrew inscription

י'רוש'לם ק'דו'ש'ה' =

YERUSHALAM K'DOSHAH = Jerusalem is Holy).

The uniqueness of this coin and the fact that no Quarter Shekels have been discovered from the second or third years of the revolt indicates that this denomination was experimental and was not followed up with a general issue.

By the fourth year the silver in the Temple Treasury was becoming depleted and a search was made for smaller denominations; bronze coins marked *Half* and *Quarter* appeared, presumably representing fractions of a shekel. Also, silver Quarter Shekel coins were again produced; a unique specimen has survived which is in the *Collection of the British Museum*. The coin is 16mm wide and weights 3.33 grams.

The obverse has the letter

א (א = n = [Year] 4)

surrounded by a wreath of palm branches. The reverse design consists of three palm branches, tied together at the bottom. The inscription is identical to the Quarter Shekel of the first year.

The modern Israel 250 Pruta coin, dated 1949, copied the palm branch motif from the Year Four Quarter Shekel.

Historic circumstances did actually accomplish the feat of making the quarter shekel, or at least its equivalent, one of the most prolific of ancient Jewish coins. When the followers of Bar Kochba revolted against Rome in 132 C.E. they overstruck the coins of the surrounding territories with Jewish

Continued on page 33

TWO CITIES,



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schacher in Israel; center, AINA trip member Bob Sidener, N. Y.

(In March of 1969, a dream of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schacher was realized when they combined their own wish to visit Israel with AINA's plan for the Israel Numismatic Tour. As this issue of The Shekel goes to press, the 1970 Tour is departing for the Holy Land. This reminiscence by Harry Schacher is a timely tale of a modest collector's acquisition of coinage of antiquity.)

Harry Schacher had been a philatelist of Israel stamps only who was introduced to coins of Israel in 1958 through a stamp dealer who suggested that he might wish to buy that year's commemorative coin. This started a modest interest in and collection of contemporary coinage which has now been pushed into the background by a serious study of the ancients and the development of a background of ancient history. Mr. Schacher is a New Yorker in the fur business.)

TWO SHEKOLIM

There we strolled, my wife and I, along Hayarkon Street in Tel Aviv. We had only barely arrived in Israel and had only begun to accept the fact that we were making a pilgrimage we had thought about for many years.

A stone's throw from the Dan Hotel is the shop of a well-known dealer in antiquities and ancient coins. As we passed, we looked into the window. Seated at the counter were several members of our AINA entourage, busy examining various coins. The dealer within, seeing my recognition of the customers in his shop, held up his hand to catch my attention. He held a coin and beckoned me to enter.

Out of curiosity, my wife and I did. The coin he offered me to inspect was a Year Three Shekel in superb condition and clarity. Its price many, many times higher than anything I had ever acquired as a collector was clearly alongside the shekel. My wife and I looked at each other. I put the coin back in the tray and told the dealer I would think it over. We left the shop and walked Tel Aviv's streets for about an hour.

To be or not to be? We returned to the hotel by passing the little shop. The shekel was still there. We took another good look at the coin, looked at each other, swallowed hard and bought it. There went the budget.

The shekel became quite conversational piece in the days that followed. It never left my side.

When we arrived in Haifa and went to the Museum; an Israeli collector offered some PROCURATORS at a small price. Still another party asked to see the shekel. He studied it, asked politely what I had paid. When I told him, he thought others of equal quality might be available at a lower price. He would ask their owner to contact me.

A message awaited back at the hotel; it was from a coin dealer friend of the Israeli numismatist. We met. In his collection were items I specially prized: two *Judaea Capta* pieces. The arrangement for the pricing of these led to a display of fine shekels. Another hard swallow and I suddenly was the owner of more ancient treasures.

From a modest collector of contemporary Israeli coinage I had become a modest collector of ancient and rare Judaic items.

Back in America, the knowing assents of knowledgeable experts only confirmed what experts had been saying wherever in Israel the coins were shown to AINA friends and newly made friends among the Israeli hosts. I had been treated fairly; had acquired authentic and valuable coin specimens and have given myself and my family pleasures and thrills of a lasting and indescribable nature: all made possible by a never-to-be forgotten tour.

Harry Schacher, New York

THE SECRET MONEY

In the last months of 1947 and in early 1948, during which time the British Mandate for Palestine was slowly disintegrating, the matter of currency was fast becoming a major problem. The Palestine pound, the country's currency, had been issued all along by the Palestine Currency Board, in London, through a currency officer in Jerusalem.

What was to happen after May 14, 1948, when the Mandatory intended to withdraw?

No preparations had been made by the British regarding currency, and the British Government planned to cease issuing banknotes upon their withdrawal from Israel. Conditions were completely unsettled, and even the storing of large quantities of cash involved a serious and uninsurable risk.

To prevent a state of chaos, the Anglo-Palestine Bank — the country's oldest and largest bank (now Bank Leumi le-Israel) — quickly increased its cash reserve by a few million pounds in its vaults for issuance of currency in the form of its own banknotes, until this state will have been able to establish its own central bank.

According to Dr. Ernst Lehman, during a recent interview at the Wall Street offices of *First Israel Bank and Trust Company of New York* — the American subsidiary of *Bank Leumi* in Tel Aviv, of which he is a director: the printing of formal banknotes or currency notes, is only handled by a small number of specialist printers in the world, and is normally done only on behalf of central banks or existing governments . . . virtually never for a commercial bank operation in a territory which is not a sovereign state.

Continuing to reminisce, Dr. Lehmann, who at that time was in charge of the Currency Issue Department of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, The Chairman of the Bank, therefore, went to the United States to engage in a seemingly hopeless task — to get currency, in the form of banknotes, printed for a non-state, and of a quality suitable for a new state. *(Ed.- The American Bank Note Company finally agreed to print the notes, and to provide an initial supply within six months.)*

"When these banknotes were being prepared, it was not yet known what the new currency, or the new state, would be called. Therefore, the existing term 'Palestine Pound' was used. And it was ironic that the cooperating American printer avoided adding his name to the notes, because of their non-professional appearance, due to the haste in which they were prepared."

Meanwhile, for fear that the stored stock of Palestine currency might not suffice in the event of a run on the Bank during this waiting period (for the arrival of the American-printed notes), the Bank hastily went ahead, in absolute secrecy, to print simple, primitive notes on ordinary check-safety paper. A local Tel Aviv printer agreed to print the illegal currency at night, virtually under the nose of the English, who were still in control. These were 500 mils, and one, five, ten and fifty Palestine pound checks.

Fortunately, these emergency notes were not needed, and were never put into circulation. For when the British eventually left, there was no panic, nor was there a run on the Bank. (It

OF THE NEW STATE



Secretly printed illegal currency — never used.

should be mentioned that virtually all of those notes were ultimately destroyed. There remains, however, one set of denominations now in Tel Aviv's Kadman Numismatic Museum.)

Delivery of the initial supply of American-printed currency had been promised for July. But on May 15th, the independent State of Israel had been declared, and was immediately attacked by its neighbors. Thus, when the notes became available, there arose another major problem: how to get these banknotes into Israel.

Since the Arab-Israeli war was raging, banknotes could not be shipped across international borders with any degree of certainty of arrival, and commercial airlines were not prepared to take them. After much negotiation, KLM agreed to use three Skymasters to fly the entire issue to Israel, via Amsterdam, under one condition:

when the planes flew over Cyprus, they were to flash a signal. If they received a go-ahead, they were to continue on to Israel. If not, the planes would land in Cyprus.

The reason for this arrangement was that no major airport was in Israeli hands, and the only place where the planes could possibly land was an old airbase which the English had vacated — Ayn Shemer — which was still not secured.

The new Israeli army was requested to make a special effort to secure this airfield, which they did. The KLM planes thus received their clearance to Ayn Shemer, and within two hours the notes were under armed convoy and on their way to Haifa.

Under these dramatic circumstances the first banknotes arrived in Israel, in July. A month later, a law was passed by the new government establishing

Continued on page 35

From Oil Painting



Dimensional wire structure developed from oil painting by Yitzhak Pugacz.



Keren Hayesod Jubilee Medal repeats theme developed from oil painting to wire sculpture.

YITZHAK PUGACZ came to Palestine in 1939, on the eve of World War II, on a clandestine immigrant's ship. While serving in the British Army he was able in Italy and France to get acquainted with art treasures and the great masters.

In 1962, he was awarded the coveted Jerusalem Prize. In 1964, he went to Paris at the invitation of the French Government. He now teaches at the Bezalel Academy of Arts in Jerusalem, where he has his home.

to Wire Construction to Medal



A dedication to the immigration has marked the career of Pugacz; his famous painting, HOPE, which appears in the background provides the central motif of the medal.

Pugacz has a fine sense of colour and a keen eye for the pure and essential line, a quality well-demonstrated in the design of the *Keren Hayesod Jubilee Medal*. His art combines power and grace.

Pugacz is preoccupied with the theme of immigration. His great oil

painting, *Hope*, shows men and women standing on a skeletal vessel, holding hands. Although they are faceless, they emanate stubborn determination.

The same treatment of the theme is repeated in the central motif of the medal.

The Tokens for Students of Yeshivat Hebron

by Dov Genachowski, Jerusalem



When reading the news of the death of the revered head of the Yeshiva, Rabbi Yeheskel Sarna, some time ago, the story of a memorable token came to mind.

In the early Twenties, Rabbi Sarna founded in Hebron a branch of the famed Slabodka Yeshiva in Lithuania. In 1929, however, in the Hebron massacre, students of the Yeshiva were murdered by the Arabs, and those who were saved moved to Jerusalem. The name of the Yeshiva was changed to "Yeshivat Hebron" following this move.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Dov Genachowski is economist of the Bank of Israel and expert on international finance. His hobby numismatics—arose from his interest in history. He has written several books on medieval Jewish history and numerous articles on economics. Mr. Genachowski, a member of the Israel Numismatic Society as well as the American Numismatic Association, a judge of the Kadman Numismatic Prize, author of many articles dealing with coins, lives in Jerusalem with his wife and four children.

In a recent issue of *The Shekel*, the author was erroneously identified as Professor and as a faculty member of Hebrew University. *The Shekel* is happy to acknowledge its error in both of these misstatements.

The Yeshiva had no building in the first years that it was in Jerusalem; studies were held in synagogues, the students being quartered in private rooms. Because there was no dormitory or dining room, the students had to buy their own food. The Yeshiva, not always with money on hand, issued them with *tokens* like the one illustrated:

"5 The Pension 5/ of Yeshivat Hebron No. (565) / Please give bearer merchandise for / Five Mils."

These tokens were accepted by shops and were redeemed, more or less punctually, by the Yeshiva. They were in use until the institute moved to its own building, by the mid-Thirties.

The token illustrated is in letterpress, black on white. I have heard of, but have not seen, other denominations.

Yeshivat Hebron became, over the years, one of the foremost Rabbinical schools in the world and the late Rabbi Sarna was recognised as one of the most important religious leaders. Following the liberation of Hebron, in June 1967, he had one dream — the re-establishment of a Yeshiva there. By then the once most active of men was already bed-ridden, but others fulfilled that dream. — A Yeshiva now exists in the City of the Patriarch Abraham.

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis

Q. As a beginner in the numismatic field I would like to know how to preserve the mint and proof quality of my Israeli coins. Are there any holders or covers for the above stated coins?
M. B., MD, Downey Cal.

A. For holders, see ALEPH BETH column, Summer 1968, Vol. 1 No. 2. As to care, here are a few pointers.

Coins tarnish because of light, air, moisture and chemicals. Always handle a coin by its edges between the thumb and the forefinger—the less handling, the better. A thumb print left on a silver or copper coin in proof or uncirculated condition will soon etch its way into the metal to destroy its value and be a monument to a careless individual a hundred years after he is gone.

Do not have any rubberbands anywhere near your coins. The sulphur will turn your silver black.

Use only approved coin envelopes like Whitman which have a very low sulphur content in the paper. Don't keep your coins in a wooden box. For example, the tannic acid of oak is very injurious to silver. Don't keep coins in a bag or container where they will rub or scratch each other.

If you live in an area of high humidity like parts of Florida or California, keep a small moisture-absorbing packet near (but not touching) your coins and change it regularly. Most of these are revitalized by placing them into the oven for a few minutes.

If you have a roll of samesize coins that stack, you will find that an empty 35mm film cartridge container will be air-and-light-proof. Jewelers tissue is also an excellent wrapping for coins that will be stored for long periods.

Whatever way you store your collection, be it in cabinets, vaults, albums or envelopes, be sure that your collection is so arranged or plainly

marked so that you can find an individual coin without opening, examining, and handling a multiplicity of coins while wasting a lot of time in the search.

Q. I saw a catalogue that had letters AU, AR and AE after a description of various coins. What does it mean? (TL, Philadelphia, Pa.)

A. These are Latin abbreviations that are universally used. AU is Aurum-gold; AR is Argentum-silver; and AE is AES-copper or bronze.

Q. In a catalogue of MODERN ISRAEL COINS I saw a statement that a certain coin had an incuse edge. Please explain. (J. L., Boston, Mass.)

A. Incuse are the sunken parts of a design below the flat field of a design. For example, if you took a letter punch, placed it on a flat piece of metal and struck the punch with a hammer, the resulting letter in the flat piece of metal would be incuse. The edge inscription (not the edge) is incuse on all the 5 Pound Commemorative Coins of Israel except the Ingathering whose edge lettering is raised.

Q. Is it true that the first 25 Mil pieces were first issued with lettering and design on one side and had a blank reverse?

A. False. They were never issued this way. What you are referring to are the uniface (blank reverse) trial pieces for testing the alignment of the die. Most were destroyed. A few found their way out of "the little cutlery factory" in Tel-Aviv. I know of eleven pieces in this country and would like to hear from readers so that we may adjust our census of these pieces.

Q.—What coin is the “widow’s mite” mentioned in Mark 12: 41-44? R. H. Que. Canada.

A.—The mite is the lepton. Mite itself means the lowest or smallest coin denomination. It was worth only half of the smallest Roman coin—the quadran which weighed 40 grains against the lepton’s weight of approximately 20 grains. In Mark we find further agreement—“two lepta . . . make a quadran”. Which two mites were cast by the widow has been a matter of speculation by eminent numismatists for centuries. Remember that the lepton is the smallest *Greek* coin. Rev. Rogers (“Handy Guide to Jewish Coins”) points out that “the money cast into the treasury was Jewish and not heathen, because it was for the service of Jehovah; and the money changers existed for this very purpose of changing heathen money into Jewish.” Rev. A.R.S. Kennedy (Hastings “Dictionary of The Bible”) suggests that the coins were Hasmonaeen or Herodian. These coins did have Greek inscriptions. Florence Banks speaks of Maccabean leptons (sic) or even “a lepton of Valerius Gratus, the immediate predecessor of Pontius Pilate as procurator of Judea”. The small Jewish coins were perutah and a half-perutah (Meshorer: Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period) so it is questionable as whether the coins were over one hundred years old when thrown or were the local procurator coins considered acceptable? One thing is for certain. We’ll never know which coins were contributed by the poor woman. In the St. James version of Mark 12:42 “two mites, which make one farthing”, the word farthing was, according to Rev. Rogers, an unfortunate translation from the Greek and that it covers

at least two different Greek words and probably two different Greek coins. In his book “Numismatic Illustrations of the New Testament” (1846), J.Y. Akerman states “the word farthing is rendered in our version of the New Testament indifferently, it nevertheless cannot be objected to”.

Q.—In *The Shekel* Summer 1969 you show the Pidyon Ha-Ben Coin with a 1970 date. I saw an announcement that said that the coins will bear a 1969 date. What happened to the 1969’s R.F., New York, N.Y.

A.—Nothing. The first coins will be dated 1970. The announcement that you refer to was inaccurate and erroneously made by an individual who sees fit to try to belittle the official voice of the Israel Government on coins and medals. The officers of AINA and the editorial board of *The Shekel* knew the facts about the new coin but with good taste, deferred until the announcement was official by Director Levy.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

In 1960 the coinage of Israel was changed from the “pruta” series to the “agora” series as a step to curb the inflationary trend of the pruta? Previously the pound had been divided into a thousand units. The new series divided the pound into only a hundred units.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The title of “proof” given to a coin is a description of the process by which a coin is prepared and not a description of its condition? A coin could therefore be partially worn and still it would be a “proof.” Of course, a mis-handled proof commands a lower value than one which is perfectly preserved.

Club News



CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

LOS ANGELES GROUP HEARS AVNI

Los Angeles — The late February meeting of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles was held at the NASC Convention, with convention speaker, Yitzhak Avni, making a special guest appearance and talk to the club in addition to a *Question and Answer* session, reports Milton M. Fishgold, president.

A most productive Board Meeting was held prior to the regular meeting. Committee chairmen were appointed and a lively discussion on club goals for 1970 was held.

Thanks to Jerry Yahalom and EL AL AIRLINES for an interesting color and sound film on "THIS IS ISRAEL" at our previous meeting. Also, the lovely EL AL Stewardess, Bunny Ben-Ari added even more to the program. Our meeting was well attended and well received. Millie Fishl outdid herself with refreshments.

WELCOME to three new applicants who were voted to membership during our January Meeting: Armando Ojeda, Alicia Ojeda and Alex Stednick. Armando and Alicia are great enthusiasts and specialists in Numismatics of another country, and delighted, we are, to have you join in our interests. Undoubtedly, within a short time you too will become avid ISRAEL Collectors.

We are happy to have Alex Stednick, whom, we are told, is associated with the Numismatic Dept. of Robinson's Dept. Stores.

The major door prize — a N.A.S.C. Banquet Ticket — was won by new member, Art Wildbeck.

A THANK YOU to a dedicated

member for supplying a great need. Lewis Thomas designed, constructed, and donated to the Club our new Door Prize Ticket Cage. It is very nice to have a member who is handy with the drawing board, sliderule, saw and hammer.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: the following will Chair the Committee designated:

MEMBERSHIP: Claire Abelson
PROGRAMMING: Nate Bromberg
REFRESHMENTS: Millie Fishel
PUBLICITY: Leonard Sterling
EDUCATION: Ben Abelson
AUCTION: Bill Sadler
EXHIBITS: Anthony Bissonnette
LIBRARY: Lewis Thomas
A.N.A. REP.: Ben Abelson
A.I.N.A. REP.: Jerry Yahalom
N.A.S.C. REP.: Bill Sadler
C.O.I.N. REP.: Milton Fishgold
GREETER: Cliff Roth
DOOR PRIZES: Jerry Yahalom
HISTORIAN: Ida Steiner
ADARDS: Ben Abelson
TICKET SALES: Esther Bromberg
AUDITORS: Bill Sadler, Sarah Breslow
WELFARE: Babe Baker
JUNIORS: Lewis Thomas
EDITOR: Evelyn Sadler

INSI HOLDS JAN. MEETING; NOV. MEETING HEARS THREE REPORTS

Chicago, Ill. — The eighth general meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois was held on January 28, 1970.

At the November meeting of the INSI, Chairman Harry Flower passed out the Israel New Year Tokens to those who did not receive them at the last meeting, collectable numismatic items issued by the Israel Government, listed and illustrated in *Catalogue — Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Jerusalem, 1969.*

Mr. Flower gave a brief history of the club and explained why more money was needed for club expenses. After discussion, it was decided that the dues should be raised, the amount to be voted on at a future meeting. It was also decided that at the January meeting, there should be an open, general election of officers.

Robert Greenstein put his hand in the hat and picked lucky number door prizes for Mrs. Lea Levy and for Ray Rublin. The two prizes were coin albums, *Israel Commemoratives Volume I* issued by R. P. Nielson Co., 1969, which will house all of the Israel Commemorative Coins through 1972, including the gold commemoratives. Mr. J. J. van Grover, of New York, N. Y. donated these albums. Mr. Louis Nagy donated a "1967 Jerusalem Specimen Set" in the original holder for the winner at the January meeting.

The displays were next. Mr. Ben Odesser spoke on a copy of the *Jerusalem Post* that he exhibited. It contained a half-page ad by the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp. on a new issue, the 100 pound "Shalom" coin in gold; price \$100.00. This was news for most of us, as we only knew of the Shalom coin in silver struck at the Jerusalem Mint (20,000 regular with "kof" mint mark); at the San Francisco Mint (40,000 regular with no mint mark); and again at the San Francisco Mint (20,000 in proof with "mem" mint mark). As yet, the gold edition is still not legally available to the U. S. collector.

Dr. Alan Feinberg was next with his exhibit and talk on three important numismatic books. The first of these was *Jewish Medicine*, by Solomon R. Kagan, M. D., Medio-Historical Press, 1952, Boston, Mass., a biographical dictionary of medical men of the Jewish faith from early times to 1952. This book is important to the Judaic medal collector. His next book was *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Palestine* by G. F. Hill. This book is Volume 27 of a set of 29 volumes of catalogues of the Greek coins of the British Museum. It contains the de-

scriptions and photos of all the ancient coins issued in Galilee, Samaria and Judaea to the close of the Greek Imperial Coinage.

His third book was *Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, and Medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1913. This excellent publication on numismatics in general is out of print; it does contain some information for the Judaic medal collector. In addition to these three books, Dr. Feinberg also exhibited several copies of *Israel Numismatic Journal*, publication of the Israel Numismatic Society of Israel. These magazines were first issued in 1962 as *Israel Numismatic Bulletin* and changed to the *Journal* in 1963. The last issue was No. 4, 1964 (actually issued in 1966).

The next exhibitor was Mr. Harry Flower, who displayed the new El Al medals. This official State Medal is of an unusual motif and was designed by the late Ben Shahn. Also, displayed by Harry Flower was a set of beautiful historical medals commemorating the "300th ANNIVERSARY — RESETTLEMENT OF THE JEWS IN BRITAIN". These medals, struck in bronze, silver and gold, were designed by Paul Vincze of London and were issued during the celebration held in England in 1956 on the 300th anniversary that the Jews were allowed to return to England after they were expelled in 1290. The obverse of the medal bears the portraits of Oliver Cromwell, then the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth, and Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel of Amsterdam, through whose efforts Jews were again admitted into England.

Mrs. Bell, club secretary, reported on her recent month-long trip to Israel. Especially interesting was her explanation of the advanced agricultural methods developed and used in Israel. Her colored slides of Israeli scenes were of great interest and this group especially appreciated the slides on ancient Jewish Coins.

MASS. SOCIETY SHOWS FILM AT FEBRUARY MEETING

Brookline, Mass. — The February meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of Massachusetts was held on February 23, 1970 in the B'nai Brith Youth Hall here.

A showing of the film, *Speaking of Israel*, was featured.

Among plans set for the future are a joint meeting with the Israel Philatelic Society in the Spring. A door prize of a medal was contributed for the meeting, reported Irving L. Rudin, president.

TEXAS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Israel Numismatic Society of Texas elected: *President* — Harold Z. Nelkin; *Vice President* — Alfred M. Selsky; *Secretary* — Leonard Cersonsky and *Treasurer* — Ben Feder.

The Texas Society meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the Mercantile Bank Community Room. Following a planned meeting of general interest, there is an auction to end the meeting hours on an exciting note. Many good buys have gone through the auctioneer's hands.

At the February meeting, membership cards were passed out to all members, reports Harold Z. Nelkin, president.

NEW YORK I.N.S. HEARS JANIS ON MAGEN DAVID

New York — The INS of New York relocated for its monthly meeting to the Willkie Memorial of Freedom House, 20 West 40th Street, New York City. All sessions will start at 8 p.m. in the main floor Assembly Room on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The highlight of the February meeting was a discussion led by its president, Edward Janis, on the origin and background of the Magen David as a symbol. It was noted that the six-pointed Star of David appears on Morocco, Hindu and other national

coinages but only appears incidentally as part of the insignia on the smokestack on the five-pound commemorative Seafaring pieces. Some of the members agreed to pool their finding for a future article in *The Shekel*.

At the March meeting the highlight was a discussion by J. J. Van Grover on the Second Annual Trip to Israel. An invitation was extended to all members and visitors to attend INS of New York meetings.

LEO KADMAN PRIZE OF IL. 2000 OFFERED TO NUMISMATIST-SCHOLARS

The Leo Kadman Prize, a society to encourage scholars to compete for two prizes annually of IL. 2000 each has announced that an annual prize for a scholar in the field of Numismatics of the Land of Israel will be awarded once every two years on or about December 27th as part of the honoring of the demise of the late Leo Kadman.

The Kadman Numismatic Museum in Tel-Aviv, in announcing the prize competition, has suggested that the prize will be awarded to the scholar preparing, in the opinion of a committee to be nominated by the Board of Trustees, the finest paper on one or more of the following subjects:

1. Graeco-Phoenician coinage
2. Hellenistic issues in Palestine
3. Ancient Jewish Coinage
4. The coinage of ancient Palestine
5. Byzantine coinage circulating in Palestine, especially coin finds
6. Crusader coinage of Palestinian origin
7. Islamic coinage of Junt al Urdun and Junt el Filastin
8. Ottoman coinage circulating in Palestine
9. Modern coinage of the British Mandate over Palestine
10. Coins of the State of Israel
11. Weights and measures of Palestine
12. Seals and gems of Palestine

At the same time, a prize will also be awarded to the writer of a scientific or scholarly work in the field of town planning, public housing or cooperative housing in Israel.

JEWISH HISTORY IN COINS

by Dr. Aaron Hendin, (M.D.)

Continued from Vol. II, No. 4



Following the exile of Herod Archelaus in 6 C.E., Judaea was made a Roman province. Augustus appointed Coponius the first of the 14 Procurators to rule Judaea. With the exception of the years of the reign of Agrippa I (37 - 44 C.E.) these procurators ruled until 67 C.E. They all held complete power of life and death, and were answerable only to Rome. It is of particular interest that none of the coins of these procurators had symbols which were abhorrent to the Jews. This may have been due to the fact that the coinage was under the direct eye of Rome. An infraction of a Roman rule could have brought a recall, whereas murder and pillage of the Jews were of no import to Rome.

The last procurator came into power in 64 C.E. His name was Gessius Florus and he was by far the cruelest of the procurators. It was during his reign, under Emperor Nero and King Agrippa II, that the first revolt of the Jews occurred.

The revolt was subdued, and the Temple destroyed in 70 C.E. Agrippa II then moved to Rome and lived as Praetor till he died in 100 C.E.

The revolt did not start suddenly. Instead there were many outbreaks of short duration. The first major outbreak occurred in Caesarea. There the Jews and their religion had been the target of frequent insults. Florus did not stop the revolt. Instead he demanded gold from the Temple. The High Priest Eleazar refused and massacred the Roman garrison.

The Jews of Jerusalem, instead of uniting against Rome, were unfortunately divided into three factions. These were the zealots under Eleazar; the people led by Ananus and Simon of Gioras; and the Idumeans, or outsiders, who played both sides against the middle. They were led by John of Gischala.

These groups fought among themselves as the Roman general, Vespasian, advanced on Jerusalem. Before



Typical Lepta of the Procurators



Palm Tree with fruit; Palm Branch



1/2-Shekel and Shekel (repro.): 66-70 CE



Small Bronze of first Revolt: 66-70 CE

laying siege to Jerusalem, Vespasian was made Emperor and returned to Rome. He sent his son, Titus, to command the attacking armies. When Titus arrived in 70 C.E. the civil leaders had finally stopped their internal bickering and joined forces against the common enemy, Rome.

The Jews of Jerusalem refused to surrender. They were driven back inch by inch. The Temple was destroyed. This, it was said, was against the wishes of Titus. The Romans plundered and murdered. They showed no mercy. Their great strength finally overcame the Jewish armies, ending in 70 C.E. the first revolt of the Jews against Rome.

In 71 C.E. Titus returned to Rome with the spoils of the Temple. The Emperors Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian struck many coins commemorating the fall of Jerusalem. These coins called "Judea Capta" coins show the Emperor on the front and on the reverse, a Jewess (or a Jew and Jewess) bound or mourning, usually under a palm tree (the symbol of Jerusalem). These many coins show the great importance Rome attached

to the victory over the tiny nation of Judaea.

Vespasian imposed an annual tribute tax on the Jews. It was continued under Titus and enforced with great rigor under Domitian.

In 96 C.E. Nerva became the Emperor, practicing clemency and moderation. He ordered the Jewish tax abolished in 97 C.E. and struck a special and quite rare coin commemorating the abolition.

The period of peace and calm was short. The hatred of Rome by the Jews was intense and unabating. In 115 C.E., while the Emperor, Trajan, was engaged with an expedition to Parthia, the Jews of Cyprus revolted. They massacred 240,000 of the Greek inhabitants. As a result the Jews were expelled from Cyprus and could only reenter on penalty of death.

A similar massacre of 220,000 occurred in Cyrene and another in Mesopotamia in 117 C.E.

About this time, 117 C.E., Hadrian became emperor of Rome. At first, to placate the Jews, he promised to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. In 130-131 C.E. he was welcomed to



Sestertius of Vespasian 69-79 CE



Sestertius of Titus 79-81 CE



Denarii-Vespasian; Judea Capta



Sestertius of Nerva

Jerusalem with open arms. Hadrian decided, however, to rebuild Jerusalem as Aelia and to dedicate the Temple to the God Jupiter (Capitolinus). Hadrian forbade reading of the Torah as well as observance of the Sabbath and circumcision.

This breaking of the faith, coupled with other severe edicts, lit the torch starting the second revolt of the Jews against Rome.

A leader of the revolt came forth in Bar-Kochba (Son of the Star). Bar-Kochba claimed to be the messiah and it is said that Rabbi Akiba looked upon the messianic claims of Bar Kochba with favor. The Jewish Christians of this period regarded Bar Kochba with scorn as they had already accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the messiah. Bar Kochba avenged himself by subjecting the Jewish Christians to many of the same cruel persecutions visited upon them by the Romans.

After two years of war, the Romans, under Julius Severus, ended the second revolt — all except for the city of Bethar. Here, Bar Kochba held out against many Roman onslaughts. When Bar Kochba was finally killed,

the bloody revenge of the Romans was boundless. Their fury was aimed especially at the scholars and their disciples. Among those slaughtered was Rabbi Akiba, who died repeating the *Shema* as he was being torn apart by red hot pincers. It is of interest that until very recently the only known source for calling Bar Kochba, Simon, was based on the coinage of this period. The coins frequently bear the name of Simon. It was this fact which made some earlier coin authorities feel that these coins are really those of Simon Maccabaea. The study of the Dead Sea Scrolls has cast more light on Bar Kochba.

Following the second revolt practically all of the Jews of Judaea were massacred. In 136 C. E. Hadrian built the city of Aelia Capitolina on the ashes of Jerusalem. The old Temple site was rebuilt as a shrine and Temple to Jupiter. Jews were forbidden to enter Aelia Capitolina on penalty of death. Thus began the Diaspora. The Romans struck coins at Aelia Capitolina until the time of emperor Valerianus, 253-260 C. E.

(Continued in next **SHEKEL**)



Denarius-Hadrian 117-138 CE



Shekel (repro.) of Silver 132-135 CE



Medium Bronze 132-135 CE



Quinarius (L.) Jupiter; Denarius (R.)

JEWISH COINS

(Continued from THE SHEKEL, Vol. II, No. 4)

COPPER COIN OF JUDAS ARISTOBULUS, 106 B. C.

In 105 B. C. Alexander Jannæus, the eldest surviving brother of John Hyrcanus, assumed the High Priesthood. Of a fierce and despotic disposition, he was continuously at war, either with his subjects, or with neighboring powers. Styled by his countrymen the "Thracian," because of his cruelties, Alexander shortened his life by his own excesses, dying in 78 B. C.

The coins of Alexander are numerous, and form two distinct series. *First:* Those having on the obverse the inscription, the name and title: "THE KING JEHONATHAN;" written round (1) a half-opened flower; (2) a palm branch; or (3) within the days of an eight-pointed star. On the reverse of (1) are the words, in Greek characters: "OF THE KING ALEXANDER," written round a circle that encloses in the centre of the field a rude anchor, with two cross timbers; on the reverse of (2) we have simply a portion of a flower inside a dotted circle, the coin being imperfectly struck; while on the reverse of (3), we have the name as before, round the anchor, without the inner circle, while the whole is enclosed by a dotted circle.

COPPER COIN OF ALEXANDER JANNAEUS. FIRST COINAGE.

We are unable to assign the above coins to any particular years, but inasmuch as they bear the title of "KING," and this not only in Hebrew, but in Greek letters, they are regarded as having been issued in the earlier part of his reign, previous to his great quarrel with the influential Pharisees.

The *Second* series is assigned, therefore, to the later years of his life, during which he was again on good terms with the Pharisees. On the obverse of these coins is the inscription, "JONATHAN," or "JEHONATHAN, THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE CONFEDERATION OF THE JEWS," within a wreath of laurel or olive, with the reverse as before, the double cornucopia and poppy-head within a dotted circle. On the obverse of another of this series, the inscription is simply "JEHONATHAN, THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE JEWS," with reverse as before. These inscriptions show an abandonment of the regal title, and a recurrence to the sacerdotal dignity of High Priest, than which none ever stood higher in the preferences or judgments of the Jews.

On his deathbed, Alexander Jannæus, leaving his wife Alexandra to succeed him, counseled her to act with the Pharisees. This she did faithfully, while making her eldest son, Hyrcanus II, High Priest. Her own administration lasted for nine years, but only one coin is as yet known. On the obverse is the inscription, "QUEEN ALEXANDRA," written round an anchor with double cross timbers. On the reverse is a star with eight rays.

COPPER COIN OF ALEXANDRA 70 B. C.

On Alexandra's death, Hyrcanus II succeeded to the throne, but after four years occupancy, was driven away by his brother, Aristobulus II, who, with his son Alexander II, then became all powerful in the State. No coins are yet known of Hyrcanus II, or of Aristobulus II, but of Alexander II, we have the following: 1st, obverse, "KING ALEXANDER," in Greek characters, round an anchor, and reverse, an eight-pointed star within a dotted circle. 2d, obverse as before; reverse, an anchor within a wreath or circle.

Aristobulus II, and Alexander II, having both fallen in the struggle with the party of Hyrcanus II, who was sustained by Antipater the Idumean, and his sons, Phasel, Governor of Jerusalem, and Herod, Governor of Galilee, were succeeded by Antigonus (B. C. 40), a younger son of Aristobulus II. For a time he prevailed, so as to capture Jerusalem, while Herod fled to Rome. Assisted by a Roman army, Herod soon returned: recovered the metropolis, and captured Antigonus, who was beheaded by the Romans in 37 B. C.

On the obverse of his coins we have the inscription: "KING ANTIGONUS," written round a wreath, and on the reverse a double cornucopia, with the inscription, "MATTHATHIAS, THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE CONFEDERATION OF THE JEWS." From these coins we learn that Matthathias is the Jewish name of Antigonus. Some of the coins have only a single cornucopia, and are regarded in consequence as of only half the value of those with the double figure.

With Antigonus, the Asmonean or Maccabean dynasty terminated.

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Miniature Medal of Liberation

Set in Unusual Bookmarks

One of the interesting minor gifts issued by the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation has been a bookmark in soft plastic, approximately 11 inches long with a miniature 22mm Medal of Liberation specially struck in brass protected with a vinyl pocket not quite an inch-square. The clear vinyl permits viewing of both sides of the symbolic medal. The bookmark was first made in 1965 and was distributed internationally.

Imprinted along the bookmark in English on the bookmark which has enjoyed broad distribution on occasion in the United States is the symbol of the Corporation and the legend: ISRAEL GOVERNMENT COINS AND MEDALS CORPORATION LTD.

To the complete delight of AINA's Morris Bram, and to the wonder of numerous numismatic friends across the country who have been enjoying it with him, a unique Japanese version of the bookmark in red vinyl and with a circular pocket securing the miniature medal has been given to him by Jay Glushakow of Miami Beach, Fla.

On it is the symbol of the Corporation, and the legend: ISRAEL GOVERNMENT COINS AND MEDALS CORPORATION . . . in Japanese.

Few others, if any, are believed to be in the U.S.

(Editor's Note: Bookmarks are NOT available from AINA, from the IGC-MC here or from Israel.)



Hebrew, English and Japanese Bookmarks from the collection of Morris Bram, president of A.I.N.A.

NEW EASY WAYS

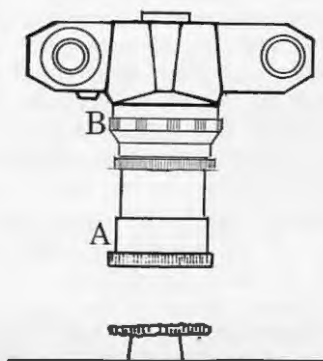
Recent developments in the photographic field have taken the difficult if not impossible problem of ultra-closeup photography out of the hands of the professionals and specialists and into the realm of the active amateur photographer.

To understand the problem which these new developments solve, a look at the family photographer's camera capability is in order. The typical camera, of any film size, of any shape, was made to take pictures at distances from five or six feet to infinity. The so-called better cameras could take pictures at closer distances (two to three feet) without the addition of special accessory lenses.

Next, the typical camera could only be aimed by a built-in viewing device set for use at distances *beyond* six feet. Even if the camera could be made to focus on a subject a few *inches* away, there is then no way to aim the camera or to know how much of the subject would appear in the final photograph.

Finally, the photographer with only typical family experience in the slightly technical world of photography had little or no experience in the problem of lighting control. Invariably he has been concerned with problem of "is there enough light to take a picture" rather than with the problem of "what kind or direction of light do I need to solve this photographic problem?"

The further problems of close-up photography, such as the problem that



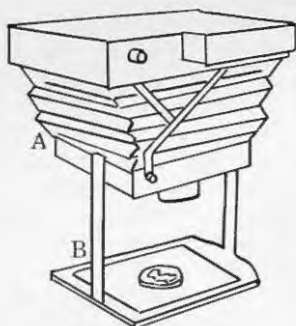
A new optical device (A) which attaches to the lens of the single-lens reflex 35mm camera (B) simplifies the once-complicated problem of ultra close-up photography and makes coin photography almost as easy as a Sunday snapshot.

focus is more critical at near distances than he has ever realized (unless he has attempted without guidance to focus a microscope, for example); or the problem of setting exposures under the new situation of photography without an electric-eye, and in the new relationships which obtain when the lens is as close to the subject as it is to the film, have crippled early experiments for many.

New Tools for Close-Up

A new group of tools, and new kinds of electric eye automation combine to make it as easy for a photo-

OF COIN PHOTOGRAPHY



Instant close-ups in color and black-and-white are now possible with most model Polaroid cameras (A) thanks to a new simple under-\$10.00 device (B) which simplifies camera aiming and focussing on one or more coins.

grapher to take an *actual size* photograph of his coin in black-and-white or color as it is to take a vacation picture in sunlight; well, nearly as simple. It really all starts with the camera.

The chances are that if you are serious about wanting to regularly photograph your coins, and if you are a novice in the field of photography, you do NOT have the proper camera. These new tools are really meant for people who have two classes of cameras, neither especially costly and both of which may be used ordinarily for everything the family wishes to photograph at any time.

The two classes of cameras can be divided arbitrarily into *Instant Picture* and *Next-Day Picture* types. Obviously the Instant Pictures will be from Polaroid cameras (or from cameras which have backs accepting Polaroid films, a growing group).

Many of the recent model Polaroid cameras will sit on a recently introduced device, the Kalimar Kalicopier, to permit picture-in-ten-seconds photography of any coin placed under the lens. A lens within the device adjusts the optics of the Polaroid camera for the special requirements of this close-up photography. Best results will be obtained with a single coin placed in the centre of the field. Edges do not enjoy the same degree of resolution (sharpness). So this system will be fine for one or two coins, or one large medal.

The device costs under \$10.00 and the exact model of the unit must be matched to your camera so bring the Polaroid camera to your photo dealer or call him so he can order the unit you need. They are available for Polaroids 100, 200 and 300 in one model; another is for Colorpack II.

With this Polaroid "stage", you will still need to set lighting for proper study of the coin, and also to have adequate light for the Polaroid process, but the problems of focus, aiming and area coverage are all solved . . . forever . . . for under \$10.00, a good buy.

To be Continued

The PRUTA Series



50 PRUTA

OBVERSE: In the center, a vine-leaf. "Israel" in Hebrew above, and in Arabic underneath. The vine is one of the seven kinds of fruit mentioned in the Bible, and a vine-leaf appears on the bronze prutot of the period of the War of the Jews against Rome (66—70 CE) and year 3 (68 CE) of the revolt.

Metal: Cupro-nickel

Weight: 5.6 gm

Diameter: 23.5 mm

Year: 5709 (1949)

Edges: Milled



REVERSE: Between two olive-branches the inscription: "50 Pruta—5709". The rim is pearly. There is a dot underneath the line joining the two olive-branches.

SECRET MONEY OF THE NEW STATE

Continued from page 15

these new banknotes as legal tender. And they were then exchanged for the banknotes of the Palestine Currency Board, which had remained in circulation.

Now another problem reared its head — that of sending back old Palestine Currency Notes to England, to obtain the counter value for each Palestine pound, in pounds sterling. The hazards of returning these notes to England were many. In wartime conditions, sending them by ship could entail the risk of enemy intervention; to send them by air, equally dangerous. And to insure them at nominal value was out of the question. A solution was found by sheer chance.

During the 18th Century, according to a decision of the High Court of England, the Bank of England pays the counter value of a banknote if given at least half of that note, with sufficient reason shown why the second part is not to be presented.

The Bank of England was asked whether this decision was still in effect. An affirmative answer was given. Dr. Lehmann, in his official capacity with the Bank, then purchased a "guillotine" used by bookbinders, and literally sliced the bundled notes in half. The left "half" of the notes were sent by air, uninsured . . . and when their arrival was confirmed, the "rights" were sent to England . . . also uninsured. The entire process took a few weeks — at normal air freight rates — and went off without a hitch. According to Dr. Lehmann, the English were most cooperative, and the credit of tens of millions of pounds sterling was paid in full. This sum of money represented the first foreign currency reserve of the State of Israel.

It was not until 6 years later, in 1954, that the *Bank of Israel* (the central bank of the new state) took over, from Bank Leumi, all functions related to monetary matters in Israel.

END

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE OF VOLUME II, No. 4

The winning completed puzzle was submitted by *Robert Schoenwalter, Elizabeth, N. J.* who has been awarded a bronze *Levi Eshkol Medal*.



JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

Continued from page 11

designs. The silver coins were principally Roman provincial tetradrachms, drachms and imperial Roman denarii; these have a value ratio of 1 : 4.

Once the silver coins were overstruck they were considered not to be Shekels and Quarter Shekels, but Sela'im and Susim. The weight of the Sus was in close agreement with the Quarter Shekels of the First Revolt. At last the Jews had their "two bits".

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

The Liberation Medal contrasts on either of its sides the destruction wrought in 70 C.E. and the independence restored nineteen centuries later — the Hebrew captive in manacles and the free Jewish farmer planting a young tree; the Jewess mourning the ruin of her land and a joyous mother holding up her child to heaven?

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont.)

tokens and paper money, not heretofore covered in any publication. *Hurry*, send in your order.

We invite all members and friends to furnish papers and articles which will be considered for publication in *The Shekel*. The attention of potential authors is called to the fact that *The Shekel* is for collectors of Coins, Medals, Tokens and Paper Money. Thus the subject matter is by no means limited to coins alone, even though the popular terms for the hobby is "coin collecting".

I extend my best wishes to our new editor, George Gilbert, on his first issue of *The Shekel*. He has followed *The Shekel* with interest from its first appearance and now will bring to its pages his enthusiasm for the art of the presentation of ideas. Hopefully, through the pages which will pass through his hands he will gather a deeper knowledge of and love for the coins of Israel, old and new.

Shalom,

MORRIS BRAM, *President*

PHILATELISTS, NUMISMATISTS

AT JOINT MEETINGS

Long Islanders from all over New York's nearby 100-mile long Long Island met in a session which brought together members of the Israel Numismatic Society with the Long Island Chapter of the Society of Israel Philatelists.

The meeting at Rockville Center's Temple B'nai Sholom heard presentations for the coin and stamp collectors present by Mel Wacks who spoke on coins of Israel while Dr. A. Wallach covered the subject of stamps.

INSLI meetings are held on the third Thursdays of each month in Rockville Center at the Drydock Savings Association, 333 Merrick Road. For information, write to INSLI at P. O. Box 145, Plainview, L. I., N. Y. 11803.

JERUSALEM RUINS YIELD COINS

Continued from page 5

be pointed out that the use of the menorah symbol in the Jewish art of this period when it still stood in the Temple, is extremely rare and that the one discovered is unique in its design.

Another Jewish motif — two cornucopiae with a pomegranate — has been discovered elaborately engraved on a stone fragment. This is the first time that this symbol has been found anywhere else other than on Hasmonean coins.

Tiles bearing the stamp of the 10th Legion have been found in considerable numbers in the stratum post-dating the destruction of Jerusalem. Deep sunk foundations of a large Crusader building penetrated and destroyed the remains of earlier strata.

(Ed. - As photographs of the coins and moulds are made available, *THE SHEKEL* will update this story in future issues).

The *New York Times* account, frontpaged and then carried over with a 3-column headline, *RUINS OF A.D. 70 UNEARTHED IN JERUSALEM*, quoted Professor Avigad as follows:

"They (the coins) dated to the time of the rebellion", he said. "Jewish coins, you know, were stamped 'First Year of the Redemption of Zion,' in A.D. 66, Second Year of the Redemption in 67 and so on until A.D. 70, when the city fell."

"We have found coins of most of these years, so we know—with the other evidence—that we have a structure involved in the destruction just 1900 years ago."

The *Times* also cited that fact that among other finds were an ink pot exactly the same as those found in the Qumran Caves. Those caves provided the Dead Sea Scrolls which certified that the Bible's version of certain scriptures had not changed much from those contained in ancient records.



Announcing

the 1970 Independence Day Coin, MIKVEH ISRAEL, commemorating the centenary of Mikveh Israel the first agricultural school in Israel, founded by the Alliance Israélite Universelle, a French organization in 1870.

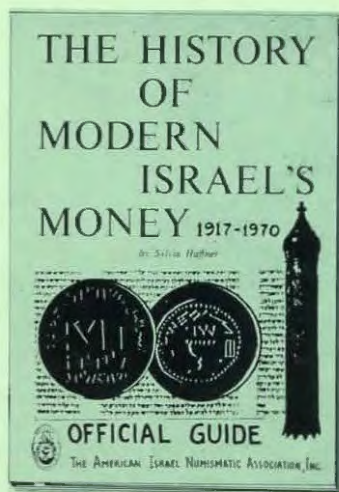
The school functions today and among its graduates is the Minister of Defense General Moshe Dayan.



THE MIKVEH ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY COIN

will be issued on Israel's 22nd Independence Day, May 11, 1970. It was designed by Shlomo Rotem.

Catalog No. C151—BU Silver...37 mm—26 grams—Nominal Value 1L 10.



2nd Edition of Noted Haffner Work to be an AINA Exclusive

The Board of Directors of the American Israel Numismatic Association will sponsor the revised second edition of Sylvia Hazner's "The History of Modern Israel's Money from 1917 to 1970."

Mrs. Haffner, noted lecturer and author of numismatic articles was the Heath Literary Award recipient from the American Numismatic Association in 1968.

The new issue will contain whole new sections of Israel's coinage, tokens and paper money, not heretofore covered in any publication. All prices and Mint figures have been modified to up-to-date revisions.

The new expanded 350-page book not only features the old classifications, but now includes such specialties as

Turkish and Egyptian coins and bank notes in Palestine, current tokens, chits and emergency small change tokens.

AINA has been appointed the exclusive distribution agent for an extended period. All individual and dealers' inquiries and orders should be sent to AINA, P. O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008.

Soft cover will retail for \$5 and hard cover for \$7.50. The first 1,000 of each issue will contain AINA's seal and bear the registration serial number.